

BLUES NEWS

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Newbury RFC's Official Newsletter



A WORD FROM THE CHAIR

Written by
The Chair

(who guessed this time?)

As we head into winter and the darker evenings it's good to get out in the fresh air, meet friends with like interests and watch the World Cup - what better place to do all of this than at our club.

It's nearly 6 months since my appointment as Chair and the time has flown by. During that time it never ceased to amaze me just how much energy and dedication people have to support our club. It's very humbling that so many of you regularly get involved to improve things at NRFC and to support those that put on their boots, young and old.

One of my pledges was to improve communication and I'm pleased to say that work has started in earnest to do just that. New initiatives have included two coffee mornings for members; this is the second edition of "Blues News" and the next edition is already in production; I've had the first of a series of forums for Managers and Coaches which are intended for us to listen to ideas and suggestions as well as taking the opportunity to update them on progress. I've established the "Valuing Volunteers Programme" where those supporting the club are thanked at a 1st XV pre-match lunch and worked with commercial and others to establish the "bar on the hill".

As some of you know I was at Twickenham last month flying the flag for NRFC. I am so proud of this club and the people in it for all sorts of reasons. When you mix in the rugby circle and meet representatives from other clubs, you quickly realise what an amazing job Newbury RFC is doing and how forward thinking we are.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

BLUES IN JAPAN

Newbury Rugby Shirts Spotted at RWC



Cont. from Pg. 1

... We have so many elements of the game represented here, all in this one place including a thriving mini and junior section, a long standing women's team, a developing girls section, a thriving colts squad which is feeding into our 1st XV, a fantastic touch rugby set up and a clubhouse that is the envy of all, all run by an army of volunteers who dedicate their time, effort and energy into the good of this club of ours. I couldn't have been more proud that day, and just wanted to share that with you.

There's still much to do and I hope you can start to feel the difference on the ground of the work that's going into improving things. The committee and volunteers are working hard but there is always room for more to be involved. We are establishing working groups rather than one or two individuals working in isolation on initiatives. We need project managers, people who can help on the gate, cover a shift behind the bar or work on projects to improve services to members. So, if you have some time, are not yet involved and would like to be, or would like some information about how you could help, why not get in touch. Afterall, this is our club, collectively. So, get involved, so we can all join in and celebrate our success.

Louise Goodall
Chair NRFC



Valued Volunteers October 2019

Great to see Newbury RFC representation at the 2019 Rugby World Cup. Stephen Corneck and Trisan Roper were lucky enough to see England vs Argentina, South Africa vs Canada and Japan vs Scotland (where they got in at the stadium)! Apparently the Newbury shirts were recognised throughout Japan... presumably by some very, very, dedicated Japanese fans.

PAUL ARCHER

COACHES CORNER

GIVES US A BRIEF

Results haven't gone our way in October for the Blues, with close losses to old rivals Maidenhead and Ivybridge interspersed with a poor performance at home against Launceston - a game which would have been played at National 1 not so long ago!

The Stags have had a great start to the season, with only one loss in an injury-depleted display against Beaconsfield and the highlight of holding Chinnor III to a draw, the first game they have not won in 4 seasons.

Alongside attendance at training and the fantastic attitude of the boys, it is this Stags performance that gives me confidence that we are pointing the right way as a squad and will start to turn close defeats into close wins and further into dominant displays.

Thanks for giving the teams your ongoing support - it's massively appreciated and gives the team a much needed boost both home and away.



England
Rugby

NEWBURY DEVELOPING WOMEN'S & GIRLS' GAME

Recently, Newbury RFC Womens and Girls Section was commended in the following England Rugby Article, great work by the whole section to be recognised at this level

Their new social team plays once a month catering for new players and older team mates who can't train and play week in, week out. Now they've also created a development side to bridge the gap between league and social rugby, giving opportunities to everyone at the club to play competitive matches. Coach Darran Brown says "While our main focus is on growth, we still focus on the success of all three teams on the pitch and creating an environment for players of all abilities and experience to thrive. The players are enjoying the challenge."

None more so than Claire Kirby who celebrated being 50 by taking up the game. "Having never played before I was nervous but was welcomed with open arms by the social team and the first team players," she says. "Being part of the team has changed my life. When I'm training or playing in a game or on tour with my team mates I am no longer a wife and mother but a person in my own right. I feel I have reclaimed part of me which I didn't know was missing."

Roisin Winston said: "I started playing rugby because I needed a sport that would increase my strength. I've always been conscious of my weight and I'll never be skinny so decided to be strong instead. There's no such thing as a weak rugby player so here I am! My Dad used to coach rugby and it's so lovely to see how proud he is."

Sinéad Tobin adds: "I started playing rugby as a way to meet new people after moving but also as a way to challenge myself to exercise with a chronic illness. I'm now mildly obsessed and love it!"

Nicky Gray, newly appointed Women and Girls Chair is intent on forging a strong relationship between both sections, with women as guest coaches, curtain raisers with girls joining warm up activity and form the guard of honour for the women's match. "All the coaches and managers, including Niki Paton a first team player who coaches the U18 girls, are excited to see the effect this whole club ethos is having. We are targeting recruiting age group girls which will feed the women's squads and will have a Festival of Female Rugby in March with Aylesbury travelling to us, bringing U13, U15, U18s to play alongside our 1st XV league game."

The first woman Chair of Newbury Rugby Club Louise Goodall won recognition at the recent Mitsubishi Motors Volunteer of the Year Awards. She has played rugby since the age of 11 right up to premiership level and her two daughters play at Newbury "I want to improve the experience of our younger players, girls in particular, and I've set up a committee where the girls' and women's sections have a joint Chair and plan together. With a women's development team, we are mirroring the colts structure, where boys have the option to train with the seniors and join the men's game at a lower level. The girls are now offered the same experience and chance to develop their skills. I've long championed rugby as a sport for girls and women and am delighted that it is now getting the attention it deserves in the public spotlight. I love the fact that it is open to anyone and that there is a level at which everyone can play while boosting both their physical and mental health."

Whether it's taking over the local park run in advance of hosting a Warrior Camp, or providing a Sunday roast before the women's game, Newbury are on the ball. With more than 600 members, including a strong mini and junior section say Goodall: "There's plenty to do in a club of this size. My greatest challenge as a volunteer is to juggle my family and business commitments while still trying to get my boots on for the occasional game".



RUCK AND ROLL

Mini Tournament Report



Newbury U10s took two squads to Maidenhead Festival on Sunday. With bated breath for the coaching team, this was the first competitive outing for the team since introducing the ruck and scrum into the age grade.

The coaching team were absolutely delighted to see all the hard work on the training ground pay off from the first whistle with textbook rucking, enthusiasm in the tackle and good passing in difficult conditions.

Team 1 had fantastic results, piling on the tries with 4 wins out of 4, with some outrageous running rugby with Cullum, Denner, Smaeke, Crosse, Fenner, Gibley all going over.

Some brilliant twinkle toes running with try assists from Tunstall, Greenland, and the hard-hitting rucking with Mason, Reilly, Caulfield saw the results 4-0, 4-2, 3-2, 4-0 all in Newbury's favour.

Team 2 again had, a superb display of running rugby, matched by a tight defence, with tries going to the direct and somewhat abrasive Burgess, Wilson, Ormarod, and Bray. Some fantastic running play and strong defence from Leigh-Smith, West, Roberts Morris, Mant and Dargan – picked up 3 wins from 4 games. Scores 5-2, 6-1, 3-2 and 0-1 (L).

'Play of the day' goes to Henri-Tomas Bray who hit a ruck and the world's biggest 9-year-old sending him off the pitch.

Newbury U10s really do have 'Game' and the coaching staff are excited about the season ahead, come a have a watch on Sunday morning....



MINI'S 2ND HAND KIT STALL £500 RAISED TO DATE!

A number of parents from the Mini section are continue to coordinate a second hand kit stall to be open on Sunday mornings. This will be available on or around the first Sunday in the month, dependent on Mini fixtures. We are always looking for old kit that people have, from playing kit, to boots, to base layers - anything you think someone else might be able to use.

If you have anything to donate, there will be a wheelie bin or a box under the stairs in the changing room corridor where items can be left for us to collect and sort out ready for selling on.



EVENTS

WHAT'S ON AT NRFC

INTERNATIONAL TICKETS?

Contact
internationaltickets@newburyrugby.co.uk



MEET THE PLAYERS

Come join the senior players on
Friday 29th November for Bath
vs Saracens at Monks Lane 7pm



RUGBY WORLD CUP FINAL SHOWING AT NWFC

Bar opens at 07:30, Breakfast from 08:00

BOOK NOW FOR PRE-MATCH LUNCH

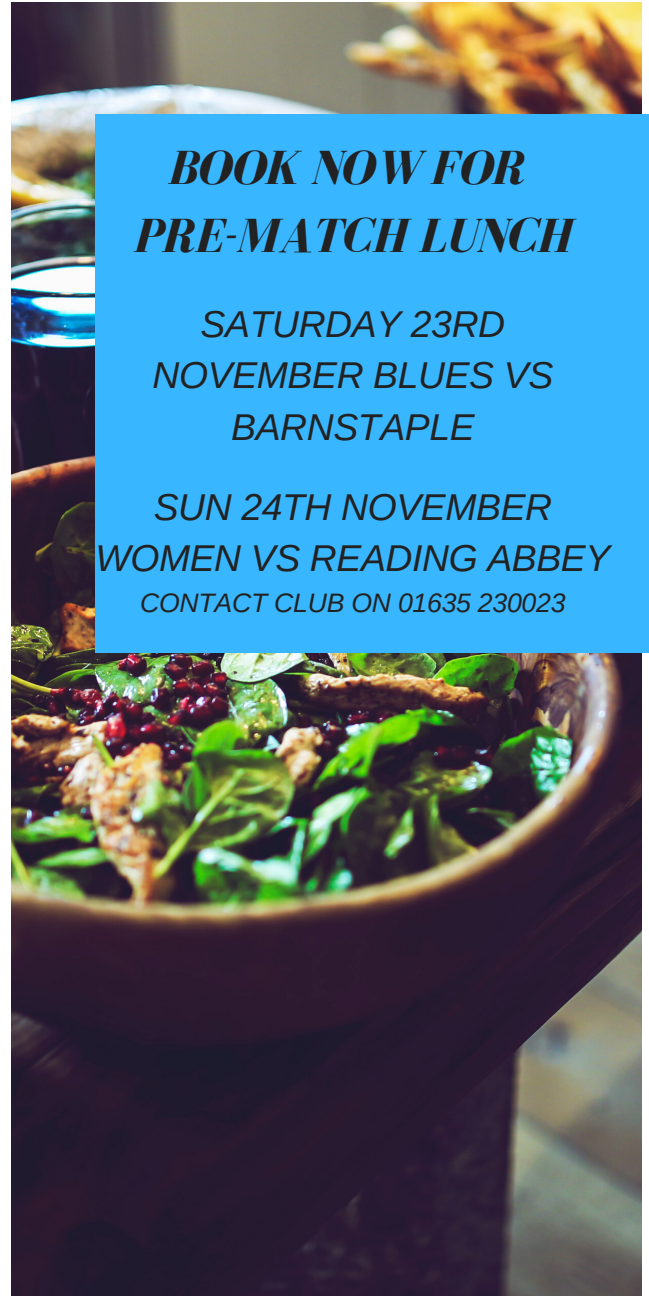
**SATURDAY 23RD
NOVEMBER BLUES VS
BARNSTAPLE**

**SUN 24TH NOVEMBER
WOMEN VS READING ABBEY
CONTACT CLUB ON 01635 230023**



SUPPORT THE BLUES AWAY THIS NOVEMBER SEATS ON THE COACH TO WESTON SUPER-MARE JUST £20

Pitcheroo Link ► <https://bit.ly/2mW7xoV>



*Must produce this voucher alongside membership card for free entry.

MEMBERS OFFERS

Join us after every home game

HAPPY HOUR

5:00pm - 6:00pm

Fill your boots with

50% OFF FOOD

Happy Hour Only
Blues vs Okehampton
9 November

Fill your boots with

50% OFF FOOD

Happy Hour Only
Blues vs Barnstaple
23 November

Available to members only. Card to be shown on the bar.

GOT CONTENT?

Contact the editor at:

forson.charlesj2@gmail.com

100 Club Winners

Sponsor our club and enter the monthly
cash prize draw!

Sign up now to be in next month's draw –
from as little as £2 per month

Simply go to:

[https://www.newburyrugby.co.uk/payments/category/
other](https://www.newburyrugby.co.uk/payments/category/other)

or pick up a form in Reception

1st Place

Julie Millar (£78)

2nd Place

Vernon Lewis (£37)

3rd Place

Robin Varley (£20)